



CRITICAL ISSUES POLL

Shibley Telhami, Director

Michael Hanmer, Associate Director

Poll on Iran War July 2026

Survey Methodology

This poll was conducted by Ipsos from July 17 to 19, 2026, using the probability-based KnowledgePanel®. This poll is based on a nationally representative probability sample of 1,019 adults age 18 or older.

The study was conducted in English. The data for the total sample were weighted to adjust for gender by age, race/ethnicity, education, Census region, metropolitan status, and household income. The demographic benchmarks came from the 2025 March Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS). Party Identification benchmark came from the 2025 Pew's National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS) with a midyear adjustment estimated across aggregated KnowledgePanel surveys accounting for changes in panelists' party identification over time. The 2024 presidential vote choice benchmarks came from the federal elections 2024 election results for the U.S. President.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.24.

Note: Percentages may not always add to one hundred due to rounding.

Q1. In your opinion, what has been the outcome of the war that the US and Israel initiated on Iran on February 28, 2026?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
The US has already won or is winning	33%	4%	11%	15%
Iran has already won or is winning	3%	22%	17%	13%
Neither side has won or is winning	30%	49%	43%	40%
Too early to tell	15%	5%	11%	11%
I don't know	18%	21%	17%	21%

Q2. In your opinion, what has been the overall impact of the war so far on American interests, at home and abroad?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
More negative than positive	32%	81%	68%	58%
More positive than negative	27%	2%	9%	12%
Equally positive and negative	21%	2%	8%	10%
I don't know	20%	14%	14%	18%

Q3. Israel is known to have nuclear weapons while many believe that Iran may be trying to develop such weapons. Which of the following is closer to your view?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
The US should focus on preventing Iran from having nuclear weapons - even by war.	46%	8%	12%	21%
The US should focus on preventing Iran from having nuclear weapons - but without the	13%	27%	21%	19%

use of military force.				
The US should not focus on preventing Iran from having nuclear weapons as a nuclear Iran and already-nuclear Israel could deter each other.	7%	13%	11%	10%
The US should focus on turning the Middle East region into a nuclear-free zone, including both Israel and Iran.	15%	26%	27%	22%
I don't know	18%	25%	29%	26%

Q4. Do you believe that the war initiated by the US and Israel on Iran on February 28, 2026, was legal or illegal?

US Law

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
Legal	55%	7%	16%	25%
Illegal	10%	66%	49%	40%
I don't know	34%	25%	34%	34%

International Law

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
Legal	45%	4%	10%	19%
Illegal	12%	61%	49%	39%
I don't know	42%	34%	41%	40%

Q5. Should the United States be responsible in some way for reparations to Iran for damage caused by the war?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
Yes	7%	50%	31%	29%

No	75%	20%	41%	43%
I don't know	18%	30%	28%	27%

Q6. As you may know, fighting between the US and Iran has been renewed recently, possibly risking further military escalation. Which of the following is closer to your view?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
The US should end the war with Iran now and refrain from initiating any further military actions against Iran unless US forces are attacked by Iran. Any unachieved objectives must now be pursued diplomatically.	23%	76%	65%	52%
The US should undertake military actions whenever the White House deems necessary, as long as its objectives have not been met.	55%	5%	17%	24%
I don't know	21%	18%	18%	22%